

TALBOT COUNTY DESIGN MANUAL

October 1991

Office of Planning and Zoning

TALBOT COUNTY DESIGN MANUAL

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This design manual has been prepared for the Talbot County Planning Office by Redman/Johnston Associates, Ltd. The authors wish to acknowledge the efforts of people in the County who have reviewed components of this manual and assisted in guiding its direction and execution.

Talbot County Planning Office

Dan Cowee, Planning Officer

Barry Griffith, Assistant Planning Officer

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Table of Contents

Purpose
Introduction to Zoning Districts
Rural Agricultural Conservation District
Rural Conservation District
Rural Residential District
Town Residential District
Village Center District
Manufactured Home Development Floating Zone
Limited Industrial District
Limited Commercial District
General Commercial District
Signs
Lighting
Piers
Parking
Produce Stands
Lot Standards
Subdivision Entrance Design
Structure Height
Appendix A List of Approval Agencies

PURPOSE

In 1990-1991, Talbot County undertook the preparation of a new long range Comprehensive Plan and a new Zoning Ordinance. These documents are intended to guide the location, rate and quality of growth for the County. Generally speaking, these documents promote several objectives which include conservation of agricultural lands and rural character, protection of sensitive land and environmental resources and the establishment of land use policy and ordinance requirements which regulate growth by affecting development form and design.

This Design Manual intends to outline "design concepts and guidelines" which achieve the objectives of the County's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations and other regulatory ordinances. These documents establish base line development requirements to be complied with in preparing land development plans. This "design manual" illustrates these principles and suggests land development approaches which can be fairly and consistently evaluated and which achieve the "design images" anticipated by County residents.

This document will be used by the County Planning staff to clearly illustrate what the "words in the ordinance" really mean when applied to a development site. While this manual depicts many "development issues", each property is inherently unique and should be discussed with the County Planning staff early in the design process.

ZONING DISTRICTS

The County's Comprehensive Plan establishes policy for the type, amount and general character of development which can be expected to occur over the next decade. The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations codify specific development requirements designed to fulfill the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and establish a benchmark from which to consistently review and approve development projects. This section of the Design Manual illustrates in simple plans and diagrams the options available to the landowner which meet ordinance requirements and promote quality design and development.

These "guidelines" are provided to illustrate a range of opportunities available, any of which, depending on site specific parameters, will assist the landowner in preparing a land development plan.

The following is a list of the Zoning Districts in Talbot County:

Rural and Agricultural Conservation (RAC)

Rural Conservation (RC)

Rural Residential (RR)

Town Residential (TR)

Village Center (VC)

Limited Commercial (LC)

General Commercial (GC)

Limited Industrial (LI)

Manufactured Home Development Floating Zone (MHD)

Affordable Housing Floating Zone (AH)

Historic District Overlay Zone (HD)

Easton Airport Overlay Zone (EA)



Rural Agricultural Conservation District

The stated purpose of the RAC district "... to provide for a full range of agricultural activities, to provide for the location of agri-business uses and <u>allow</u> limited single family residential development" suggests that housing development in this zone will be less dominant, both in area of influence and in visual prominence, to agricultural land uses. The following pages illustrate current design practices and then preferred design solutions. They present design possibilities for cluster and density enhanced plans that protect agricultural activities, preserve viable farmland tracts, and manage aesthetics related to preserving "rural character".

Because much of the County is designated RAC, development in this district will impact visual character and will impact resources and water quality. Successful projects will utilize natural amenities to buffer development from major road corridors and to filter runoff and pollutants before they reach sensitive resource areas.

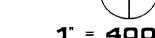
SITE ANALYSIS

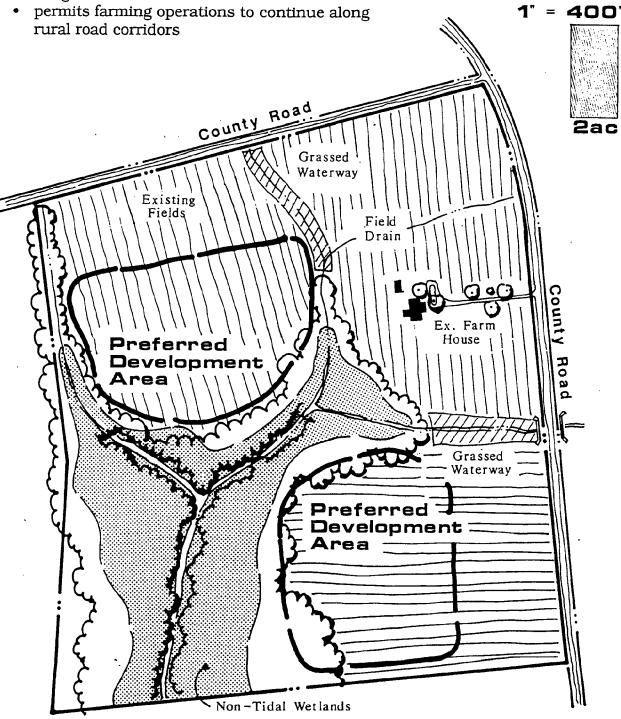
116 Ac.

RAC

Preferred Development Areas

- located away from county road "view corridors"
- tucked within existing vegetation and behind hedgerows





Talbot County Design Manual



400

RURAL SUBDIVISION

116 Ac.

Traditional Approach - Scattered Density Permitted (116 ac / 20) + 3 lots = 5 + 3 = 8 lots or less

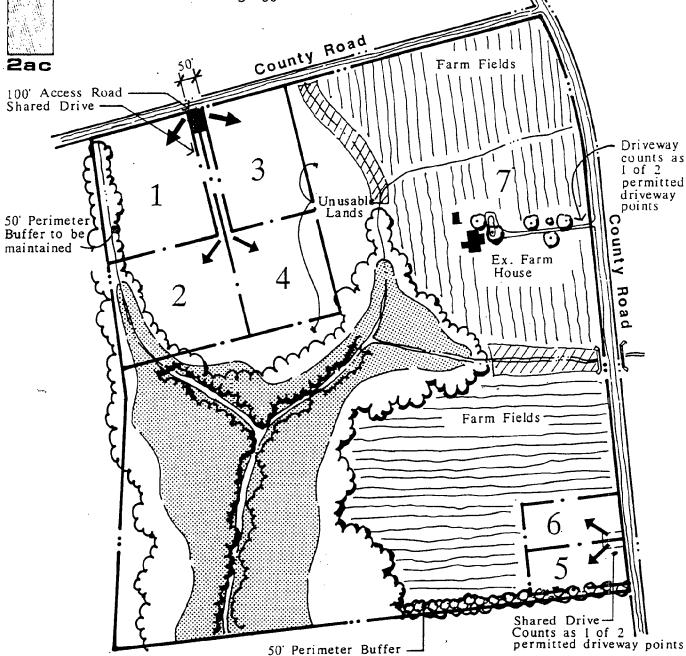
Standards (based on 2 ac or larger lot size)

Setbacks

F = 50'

Perimeter Buffer 50'

R = 50'S = 50'



Page 6

Talbot County Design Manual

RURAL SUBDIVISION

116 Ac.

RAC

Preferred Approach

Density Permitted (116 ac /20) + 3 lots = 5 + 3 = 8 lots or less Standards (based on 2 ac or larger lot size)

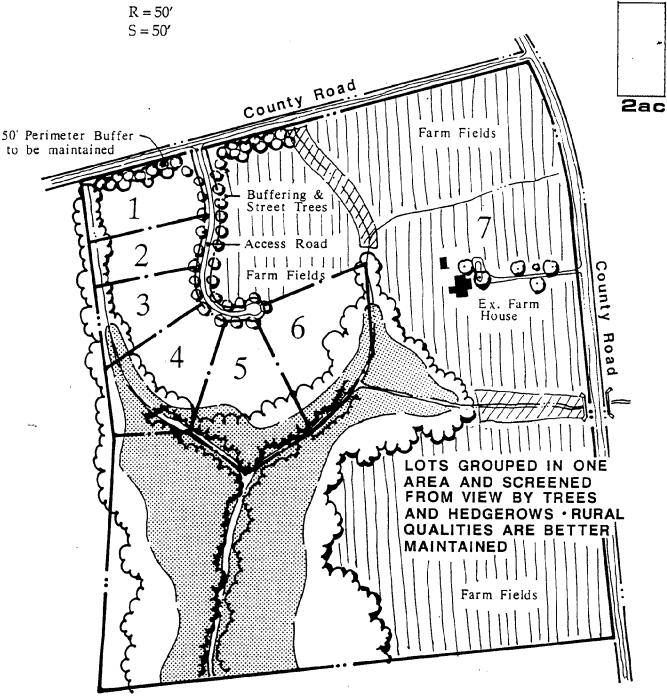
Perimeter Buffer 50'



1" = 400"

Setbacks

F = 50'



RAC

= 400'

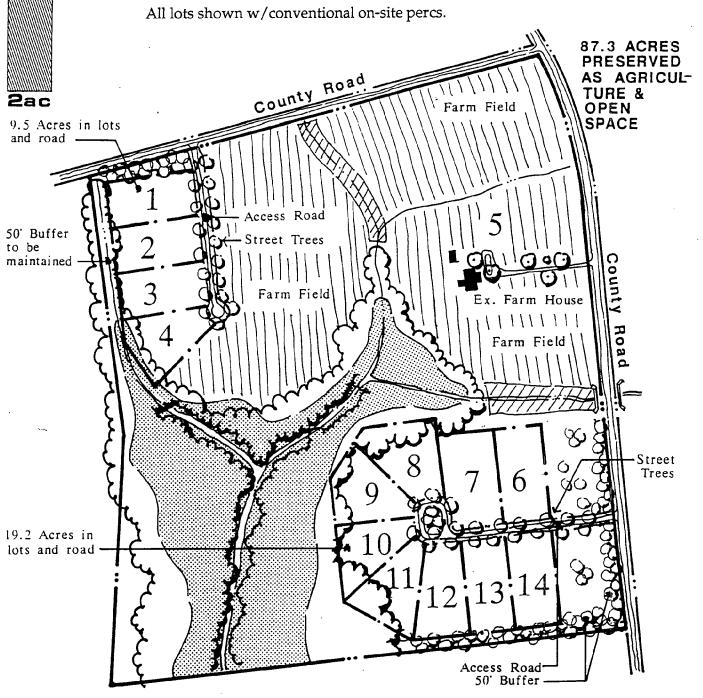
CLUSTER SUBDIVISION

116 Ac.

Permitted Density (116 ac / 10) + 3 = 11 + 3 = 14 lots or less 70% Open Space Required

116 Ac \times 70% = 81.2 ac open space required

= 34.8 ac usable for lots and roads



Page 8

CLUSTER SUBDIVISION

WITH TDR'S 116 Ac. Permitted Density (116 ac $\sqrt{5}$) + 3 = 23 + 3 = 26 lots or less 12 of the 26 development rights are transferred from another property. 70% Open Space Required 116 ac x 70% = 81.2 ac open space required = 400 86.6 ac. PRESERVED IN AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE ON-SITE AN ADDITIONAL 120 ACRES IS PRESERVED IN AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE OFF-SITE ON PROPERTY FROM WHICH ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED. Road County 16.7 Acres in lots and road -50' Buffer to be maintained Shared Septic Facility Street Trees Access Road Shared Septic Facility 12.7 Acres in lots and road Pond for SWM Access Road

Page 9

Street Trees

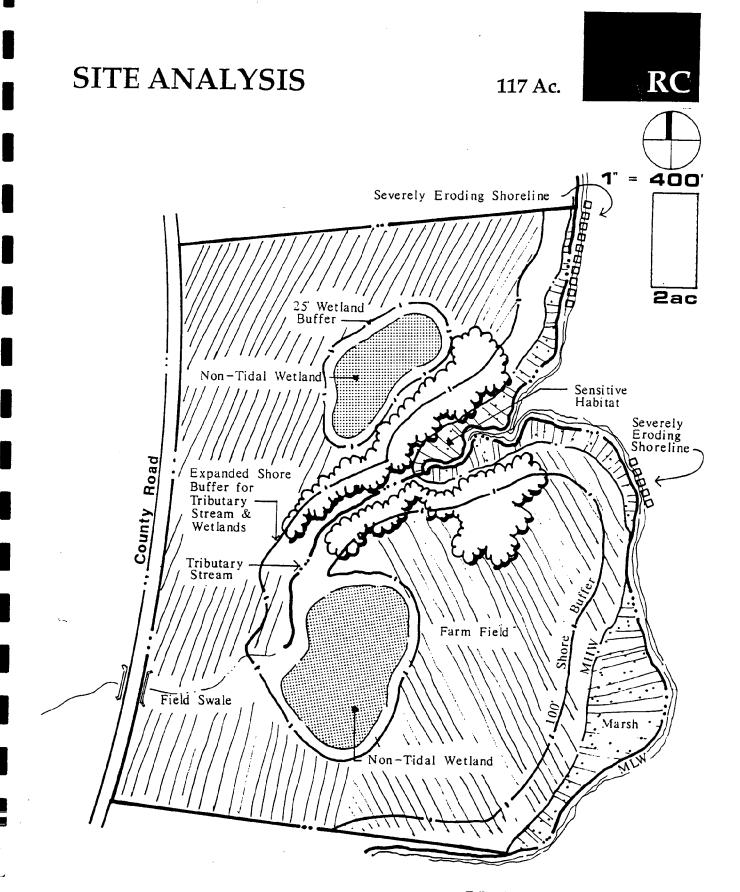
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Rural Conservation District

Similar in nature to the RAC district, the RC district is characterized predominantly by agricultural land uses located in and around sensitive environmental areas. Encompassing most of the undeveloped lands lying within Talbot County's Critical Area, the RC district overlays much of the County's distinctive rural, maritime character. In the following pages, this manual compares designs of the past with preferred land development concepts that protect, enhance and manage this unique character.

Included in this section is a look at the joint subdivision option in the RC District. This option permits development rights at a density of 1 unit per 20 acres to be transferred to an acceptable receiving site at a maximum density of 1 unit per 5 acres. The receiving site must have severely eroding shoreline > 2'/year and a shoreline stabilization plan must be implemented. The benefits here are that the County eliminates development in sensitive areas and provides density enhanced development, which generates monies to pay for repair of eroding shorelines.



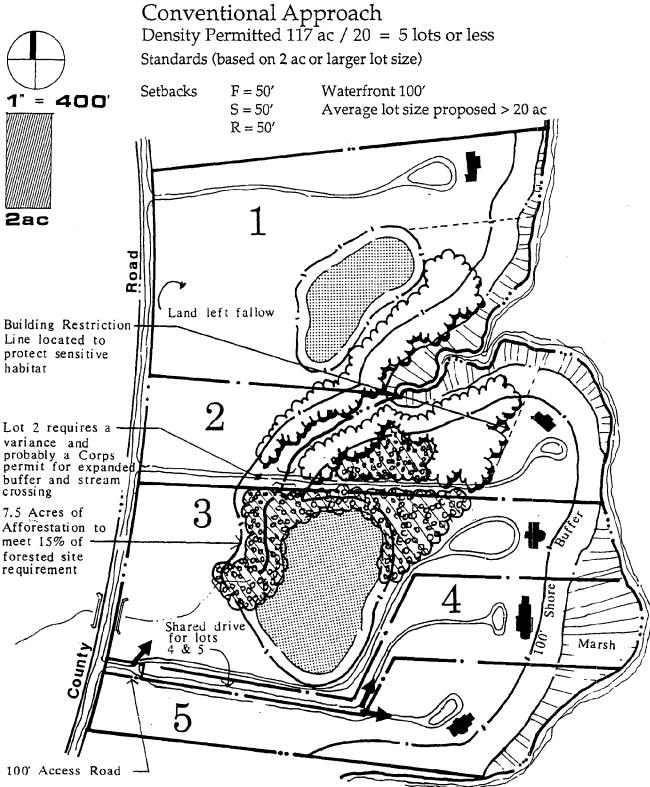


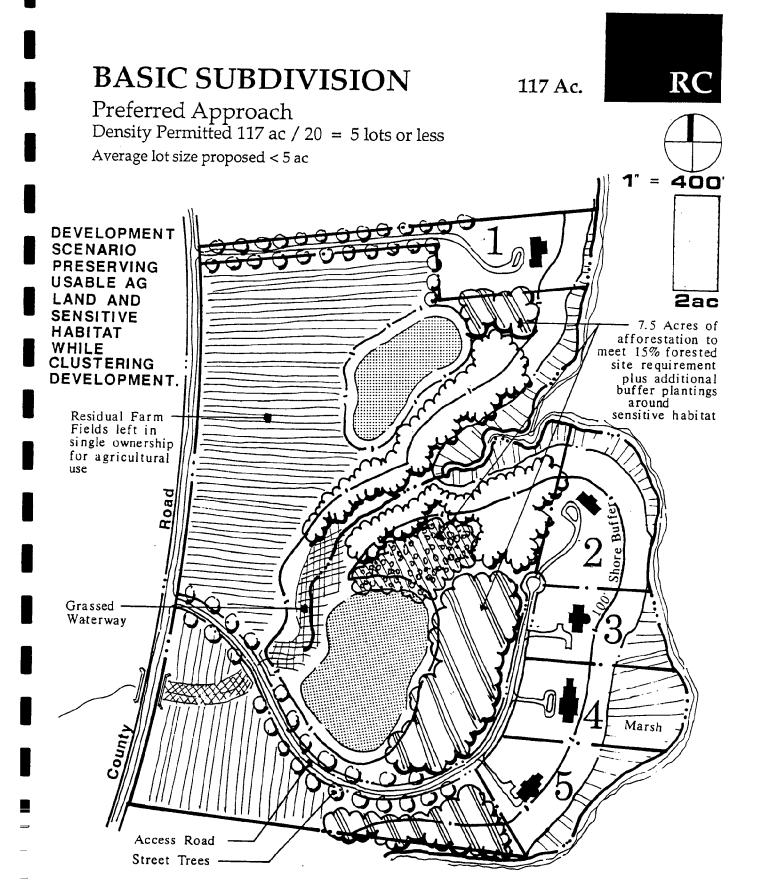
Page 12

Talbot County Design Manual

BASIC SUBDIVISION

117 Ac.





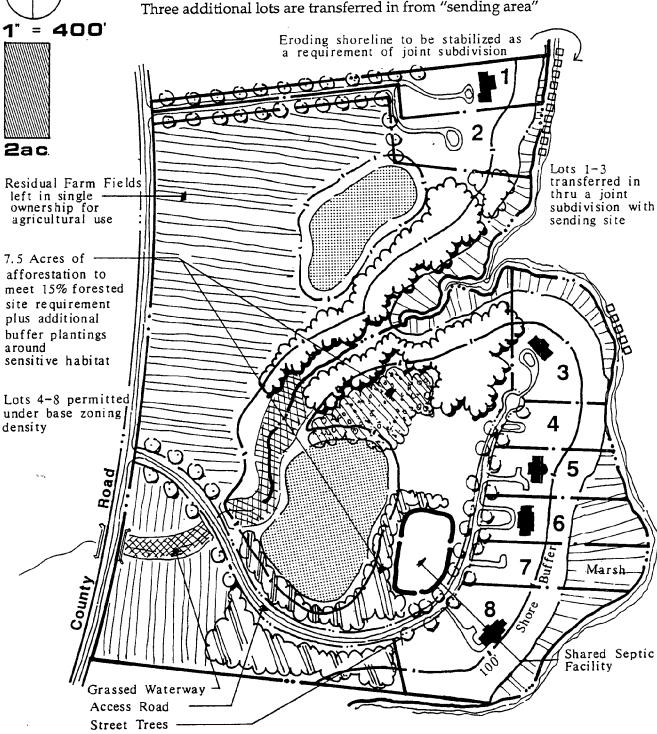
RC

JOINT SUBDIVISION -RECEIVING SITE

117 Ac.

Density Permitted 117 ac / 5 = 23 lots or less based on extent of severely eroding shoreline

Three additional lots are transferred in from "sending area"



Page 14

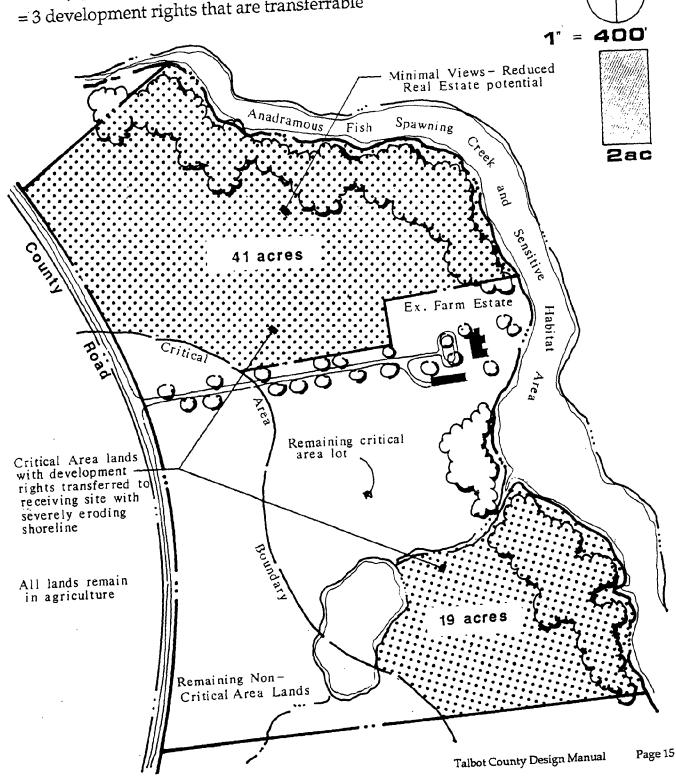
Talbot County Design Manual

JOINT SUBDIVISION - SENDING SITE 87 AG

87 Ac in Critical Area

Density possible to transfer 87 ac / 20 = 4 - 1 lot to remain = 3 development rights that are transferrable

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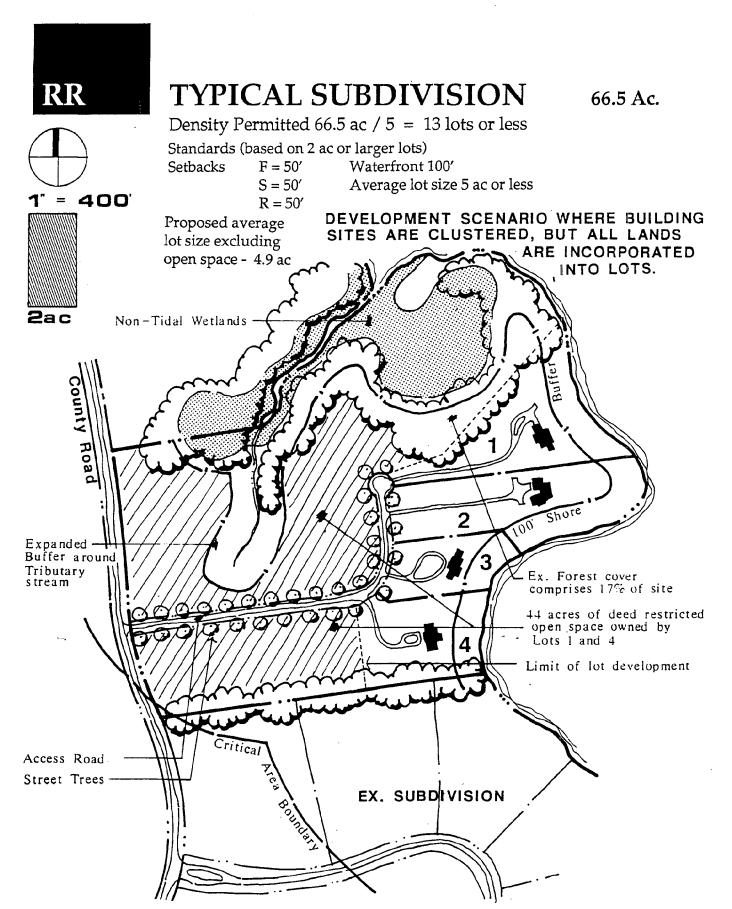


Rural Residential District

RR

The Rural Residential District (RR) intends to permit limited residential development in areas of the Talbot County Critical Area that are characterized by existing low intensity development. While these land areas exhibit previous development, they are dominated by agricultural land use in and around sensitive environmental areas. Development in this district should be clustered and buffered from view or scattered over large tracts recalling the rural estate feel of much of the County.

Integral to achieving these goals is the management of open space of leftover lands after subdivision. Development plans should reflect careful thought in the location, configuration and size of these areas to permit viable farming or pasturing uses to continue.



Page 18

Talbot County Design Manual

TYPICAL SUBDIVISION

66.5 Ac.

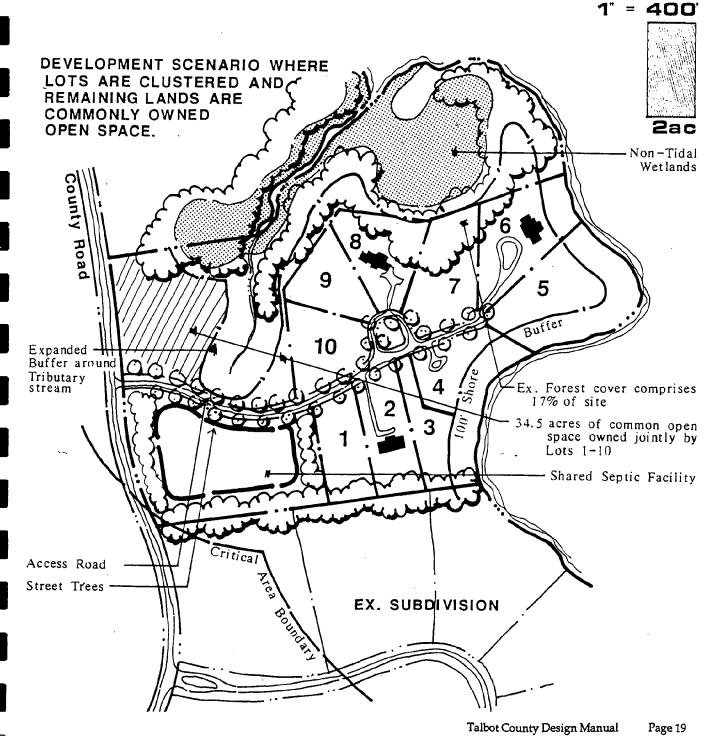
RR

Density Permitted 66.5 ac / 5 = 13 lots or less

Proposed average lot size 3.1 ac

Increased lot production possible due to use of shared septic facility





TR

Town Residential District

The Town Residential District (TR) provides opportunity for moderate intensity development on lands adjacent to or near existing towns and growth centers within the County. As time goes on and municipal infrastructure is extended, these areas may well be served by Town sewer mains.

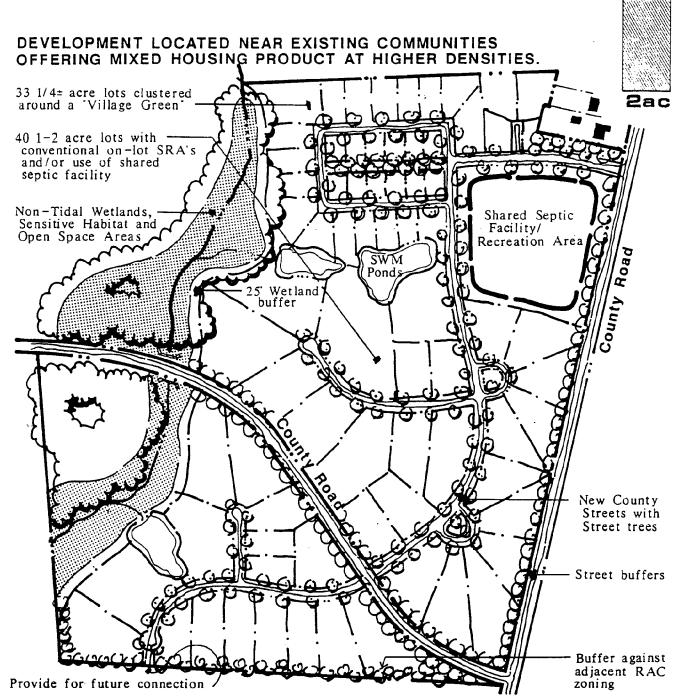
For the foreseeable future, these areas will depend upon on-site perc or on-site shared septic disposal facilities for waste treatment. The design of these tracts should focus on creating a variety of residential product at moderate densities and on phasing the project to permit on-site septic disposal now with design and densities incorporating municipal sewerage in the future.

LARGE SUBDIVISION

113 Ac.

Density Permitted (no sewer) 113 ac / 1 = 113 lots or less See Zoning Ordinance for Development Standards

1" = 400



VC

Village Center District

One of the unique challenges for development in the County lies in the Village Center Districts. Located around the non-incorporated villages throughout the County, the Village Center Districts afford the opportunity for development that builds on the established character of the villages. A sense of place and neighborhood already exist; residents can walk to the general store and neighborhood interaction occurs as people gather at the post office.

The two concepts shown here illustrate different land development approaches focused on preserving existing village character, building on and incorporating it into the new development and enhancing the viability of the "Village Center" thru commercial development.

VILLAGE CENTER SUBDIVISION

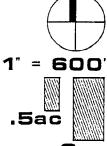
40 Ac.

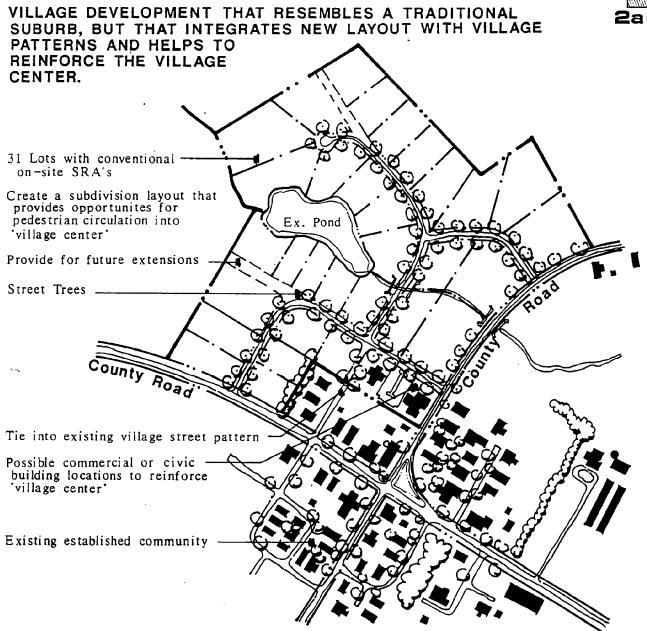


"Suburban Approach"

Density Permitted (no sewer) 40 ac / 1 = 40 lots or less

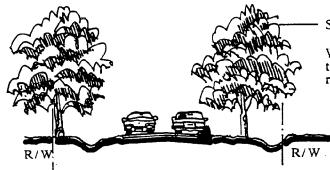
See Zoning Ordinance for development standards All lots proposed for on-site septic disposal







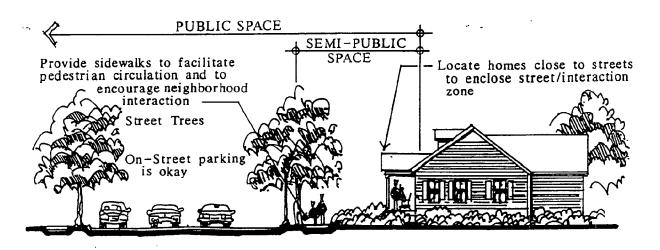
VILLAGE CENTER CHARACTER



Street Trees

Where feasible, locate street trees adjacent to road and push roadside swale to behind trees helps to reduce scale of street

COUNTRY VILLAGE STREET CROSS-SECTION IMAGE



TOWN SCALE VILLAGE STREET CROSS-SECTION IMAGE

VILLAGE CENTER SUBDIVISION

40 Ac.



"Village Approach"

Density Permitted (with shared facility) $40 \text{ ac } \times 4 = 160 \text{ lots}$ or less See Zoning Ordinance for development standards



1" = 600'

.5ac 2:

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT THAT DIRECTLY EXTENDS EXISTING 2ac VILLAGE PATTERNS AND CHARACTER AND INCREASES THE VIABILITY OF THE VILLAGE CENTER Shared Septic Facility 76 Town scale lots in 'village' setting -Create a layout that encourages pedestrian circulation and interaction Provide for future extension of village streets Street Trees -New 'village green' Tie into existing village streets Possible commercial or civic building locations that reinforce 'village center' Existing established community



Manufactured Home Development - Floating Zone

The development standards required under the County ordinances for Manufactured Homes have been developed to establish a baseline from which to review and approve future manufactured housing communities. In an attempt to overcome the stereo-type image of the "trailer park," these standards control densities, setbacks, buffers and site design.

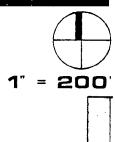
Of equal importance in the success of the manufactured housing park is the cost of development versus housing affordability for prospective residents. Efficient site design coupled with reasonable infrastructure standards insure this balance is maintained. This document depicts some of the concepts that achieve desired efficiency and present an appealing community image.

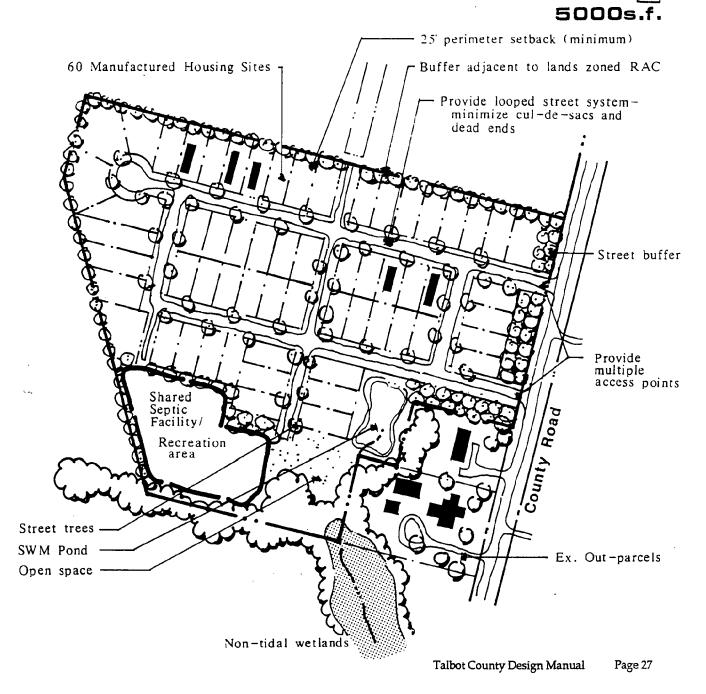
MANUFACTURED HOME PARK

15.6 Ac.



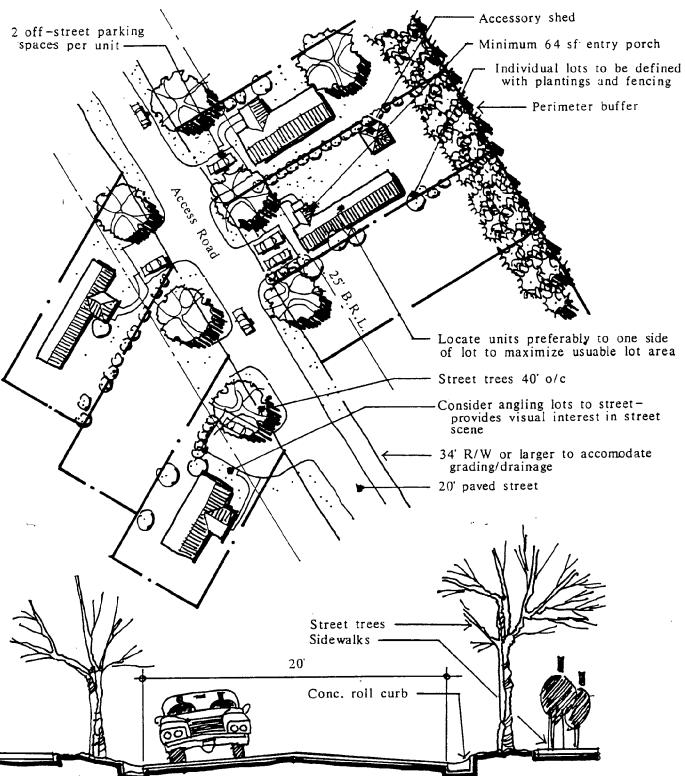
Density Permitted 15.6 ac \times 6 = 93 units or less See Zoning Ordinance for Development Standards Units served by community water and sewer systems.







MANUFACTURED HOUSING SITE DETAILS



PREFERRED STREET CROSS-SECTION

Page 28

Talbot County Design Manual

Limited Industrial

Talbot County continues to grow due in part to jobs created in the community. These businesses, specifically, in the light industrial/manufacturing, construction, hi-tech/research and office uses will continue to be developed in the Limited Industrial District (LI). These uses are clustered in areas of the County with access to some services, near adequate road transportation systems and generally in areas already exhibiting this land use. The preferred development approach would further cluster these uses in business parks where design aesthetics, stormwater management, environmental protection and road impacts can be managed regionally to the betterment of all.



BUSINESS PARK SITE LAYOUT

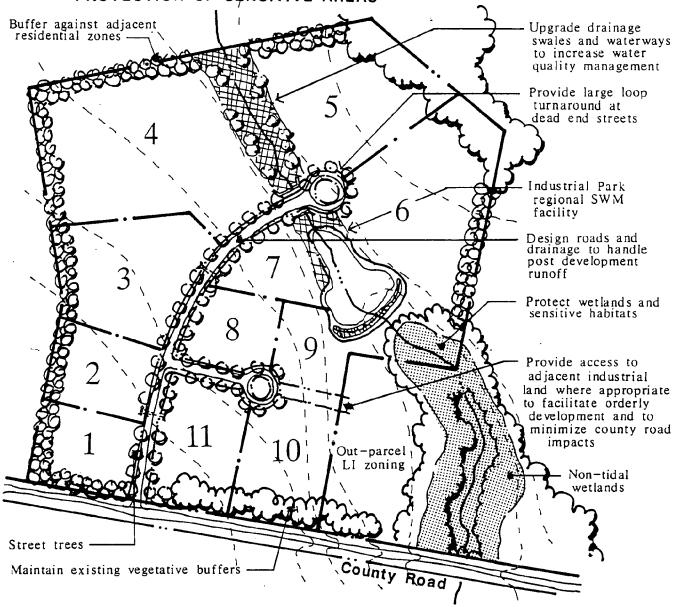
80 Ac.



Minimum Lot Size - 1 ac

1" = 400'

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN A BUSINESS PARK SETTING-ALLOWS LARGE SCALE, EFFICIENT RUNOFF MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE AREAS



DETAILED SITE PLAN LOT 3

6.5 Ac.



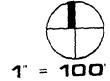
Maximum Building Coverage - 50% or 141570 S.F.

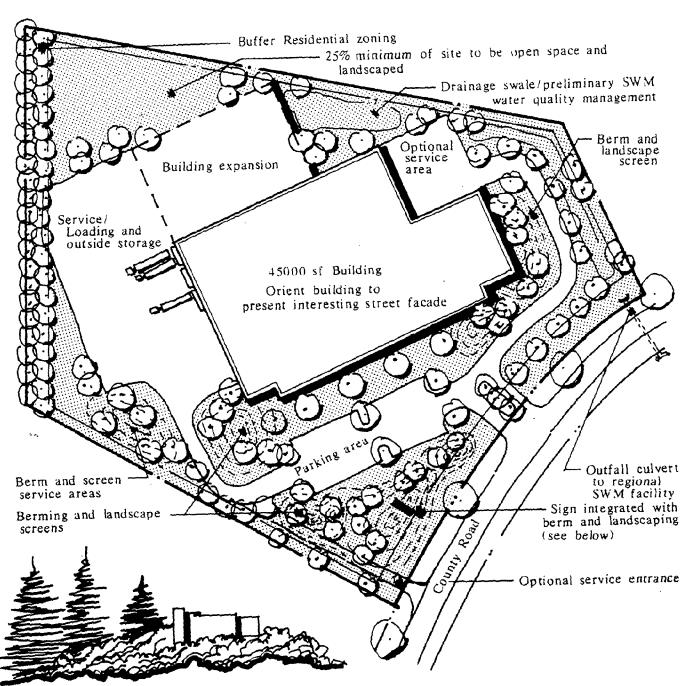
Setbacks

 $F \approx 25'$

 $S = 10^{\circ}$

R = 25' because of adjacency to residential district





Limited Commercial

Talbot County's Limited Commercial Distric (LC) directs low intensity commercial uses into areas of the County often surrounded by residential zoning districts. It is intended that these areas will be designed to "fit" into the existing rural character of the County. Architectural design compatible with a residential image, site plans that persent interesting street facades and minimize awkward visual statements are the qualities envisioned by the County for Limited Commercial areas. The following pages illustrate design concepts for different site conditions. The concepts suggest preferences for building orientation, vehicular circulation patterns, selective buffering and landscaping and site treatment of signs and service areas.

LC

TYPICAL SITE PLAN

1.8 Ac.



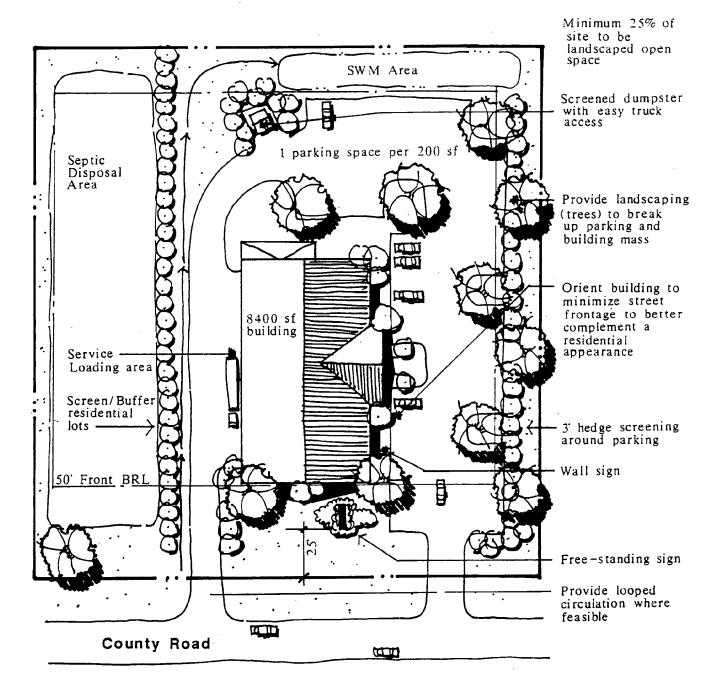
Maximum Building Coverage - 25% or 19602 S.F.

Standards (for this lot)

Setbacks F = 50'

S = 25' and 10' because of adjacent zoning district

R = 25' because of adjacent residential district



CORNER LOT SITE PLAN

1.1 Ac.

LC

1" = 50

Maximum Building Coverage - 25% or 11979 S.F.

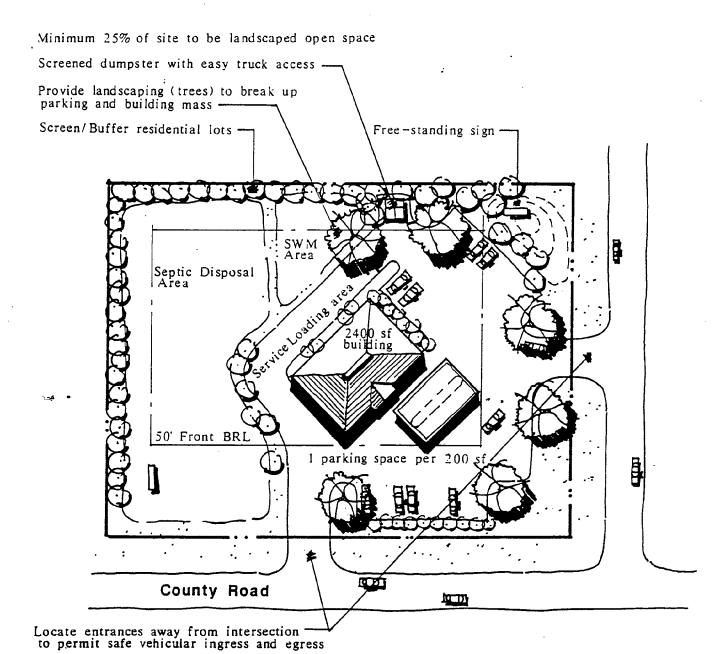
Standards (for this lot)

Setbacks

F = 50' both fronts

S = no sideyards on this lot

R = 25' both rear yards because of adjacent residential district



GC

General Commercial

This section of the design manual presents design concepts that recognize that larger, more visable commercial uses can exist if proper site design and site usage is considered. Often the least obtrusive visual aspect of a "general commercial" land use is the building. Large parking areas, service/loading areas and outdoor storage display areas visually disrupt view corridors and street scenes. To that end, general commercial sites can be designed to orient buildings near the street with reasonable, but carefully planned landscaping that allows street view to signage and interesting building facades. Parking areas can be screened from the street with berms and landscaping and service areas can be located near the rear of the site protecting the visual character of the street corridor.

TYPICAL SITE PLAN

6 Ac.

GC

Maximum Building Coverage - 25 % or 65340 S.F.

Standards (for this lot)

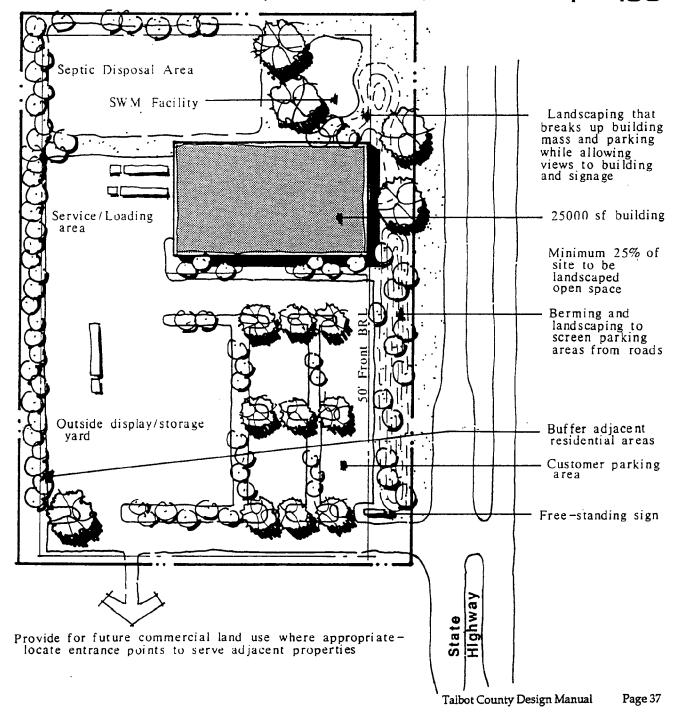
Setbacks

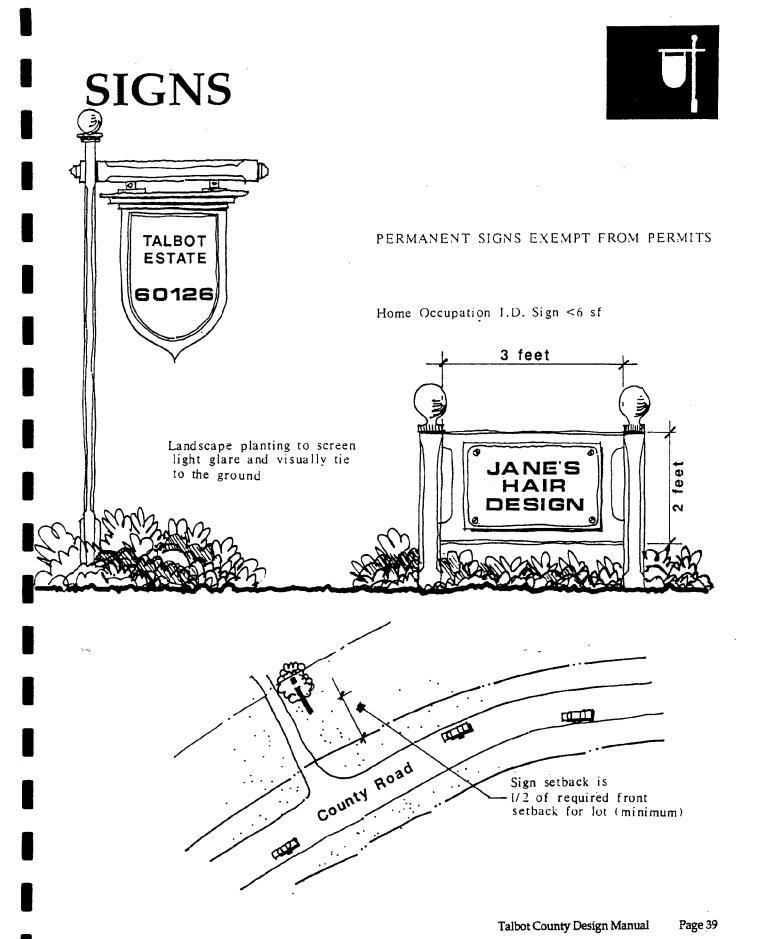
F = 50'

S = 10' and 25' because of adjacent zoning districts

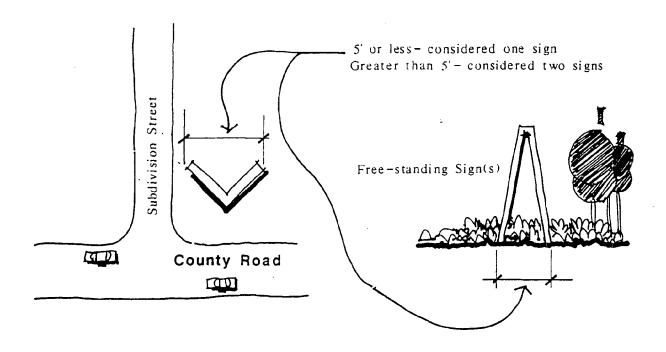
R = 25' because of adjacent residential zoning

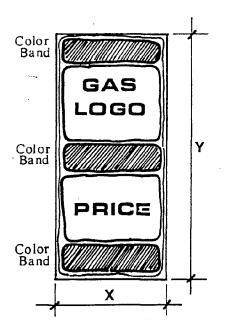






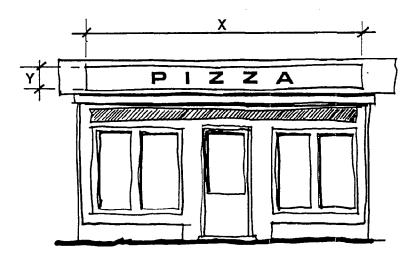






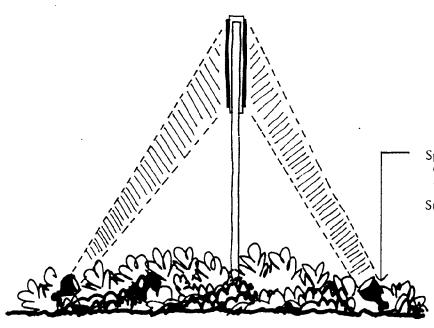
Page 40 Talbot County Design Manual

SIGN AREA COMPUTATIONS X · Y = TOTAL SIGN AREA



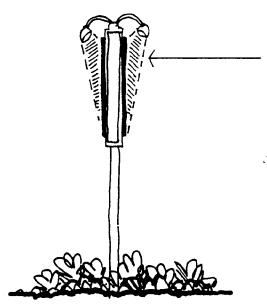
SIGNS



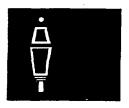


Spot flood lights with directed wash of light at sign face-

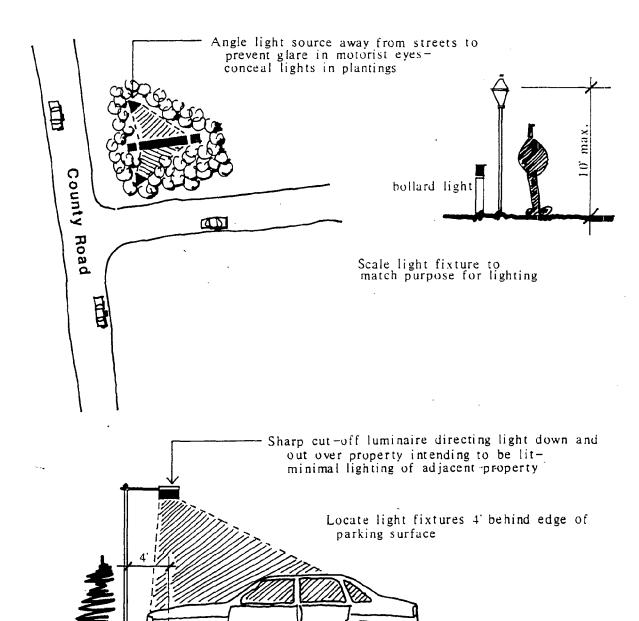
Surround fixture with low landscaping to screen light source glare



 Light fixture as integral element of sign – smaller lights throw wash over sign face only

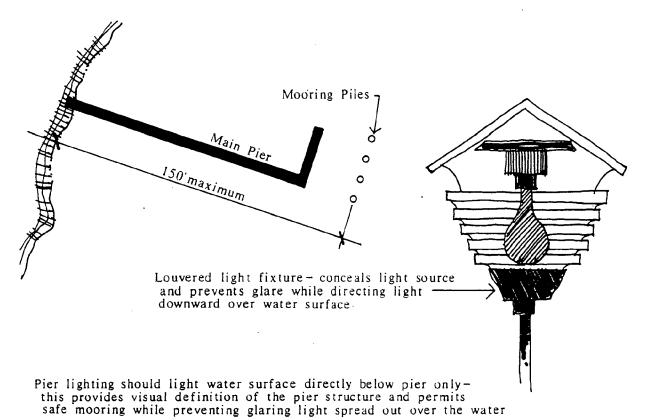


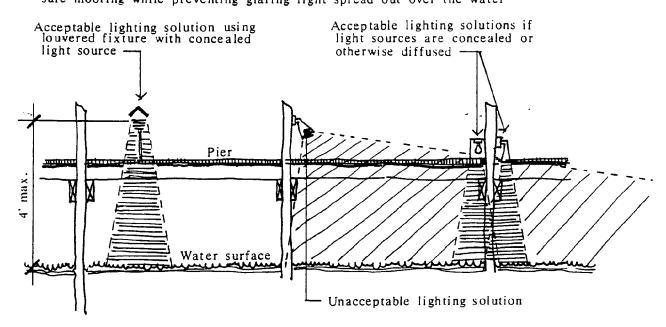
LIGHTING



PIERS

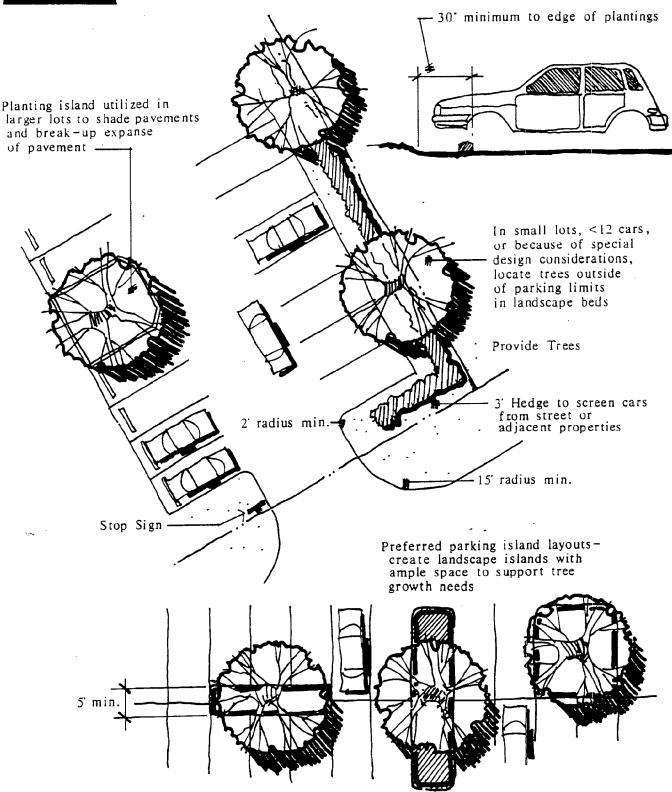






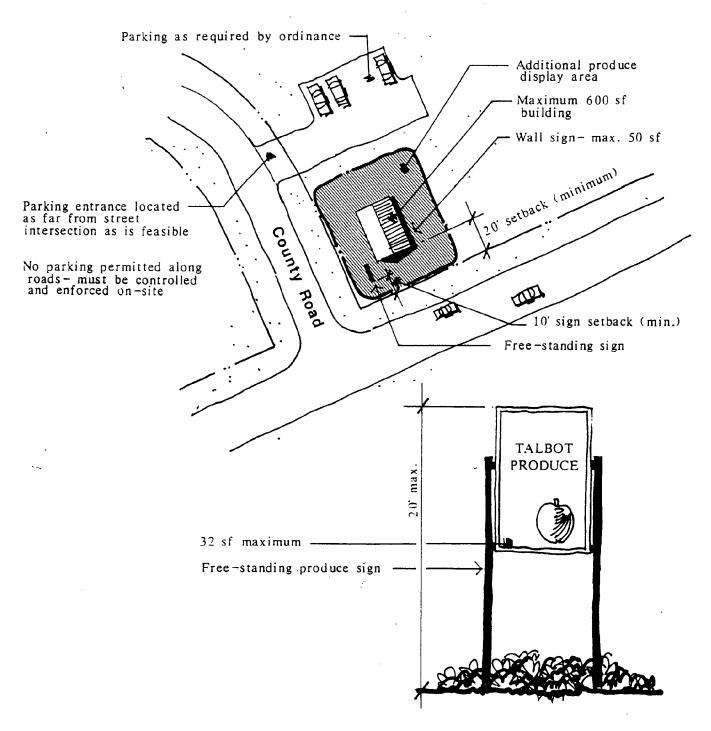


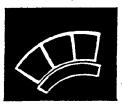
PARKING



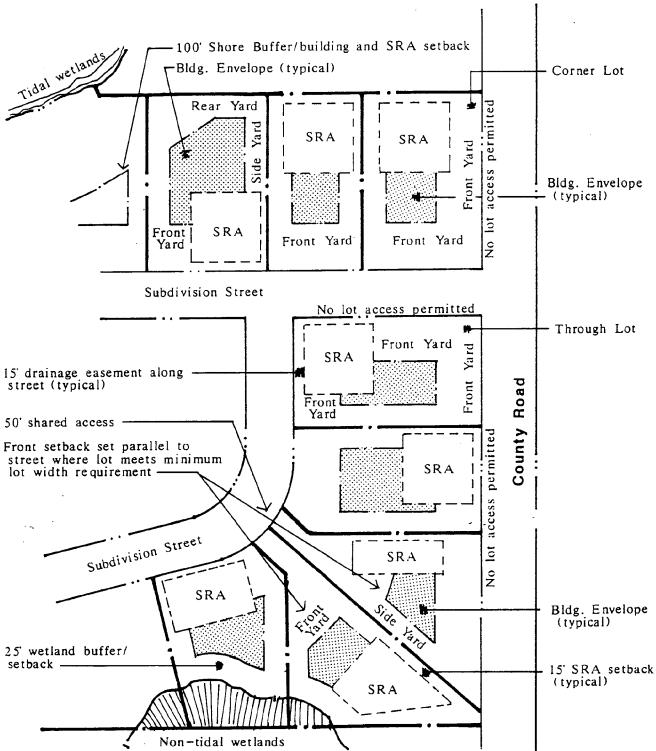
PRODUCE STANDS





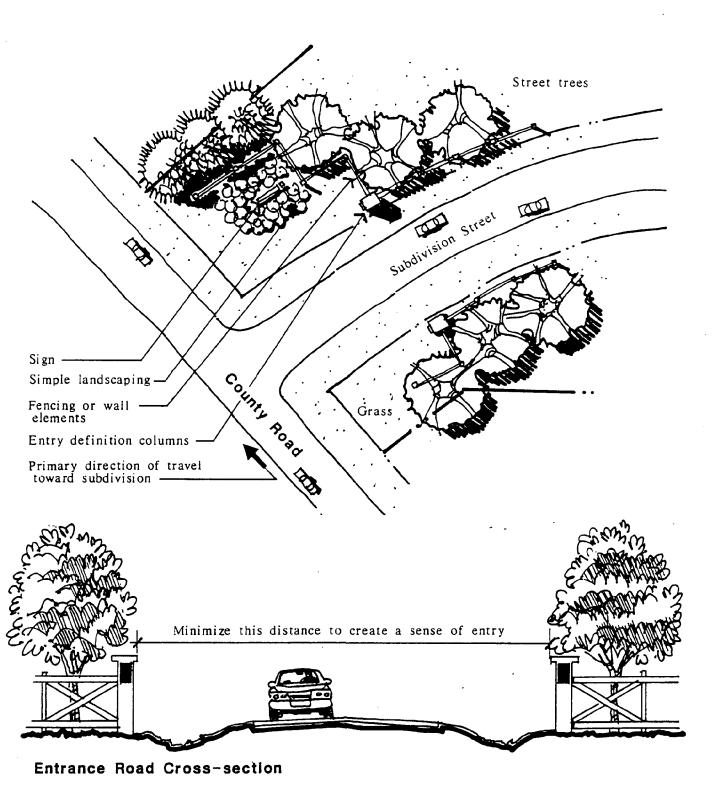


LOT STANDARDS



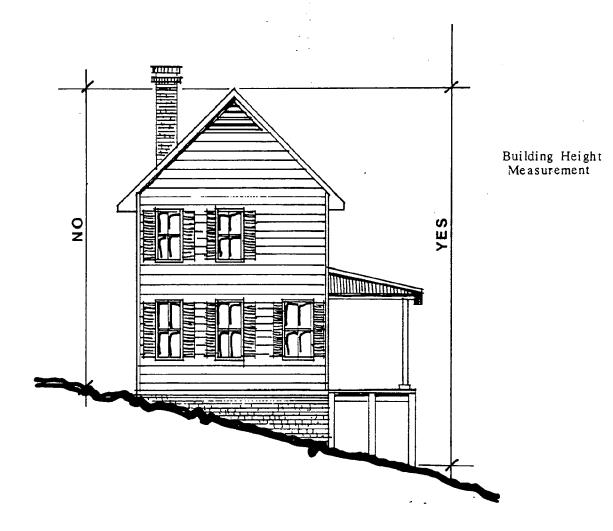
SUBDIVISION ENTRANCE DESIGN





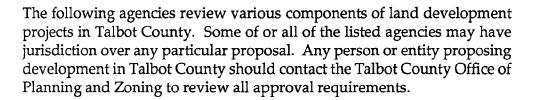
STRUCTURE HEIGHT





APPENDIX A

Approval Agencies



SUBDIVISION/SITE PLAN APPROVALS

Talbot County Office of Planning & Zoning Courthouse Easton, Maryland 21601 410-822-2030 (staff and regulatory arm for Talbot County Planning Commission and Board of Appeals)

Talbot County Department of Public Works 605 Port Street Talbot Operations Center Easton, Maryland 21601 410-822-7012

Talbot County Department of Environmental Health 100 S. Hanson Street Easton, Maryland 21601 410-820-8213

U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Talbot County Soil Conservation District 215 Bay Street Easton, Maryland 21601 410-822-1577

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Access Permits Division 707 North Calvert Street Baltimore, Maryland 21203 410-333-1350

CRITICAL AREA/ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Critical Areas

Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission Project Evaluation West Garrett Place, Suite 320 275 West Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-2418

Environmental Review

Donald E. MacLauchlan, Assistant Secretary Department of Natural Resources Tawes State Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-5551

Bay Watershed Forester

Martinak State Park Deep Neck Road Denton, Maryland 21629 410-479-1619

Wildlife Protection

Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 68 Wye Mills, Maryland 21679

WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS REVIEW

Federal Permits

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District P.O. Box 1715 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715 Attention: CENAB-OP-R 410-962-3670

State Licenses & Permits

Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Administration Tidal Wetlands Division Tawes State Office Building Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-3871 Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Administration Waterway Permits Division Tawes State Office Building Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-2265

Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Administration Nontidal Wetlands Division Tawes State Office Building Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-3841

Coastal Zone Consistency Statement Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Administration Wetlands and Waterways Program Tawes State Office Building Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-974-2156

Water Quality Certification
Department of the Environment
Water Management Administration
Division of Standards and Certifications
2500 Broening Highway
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
410-631-3609

